Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete pages 38-41 (Appendix I) of the instant application.

At the indicated page and line numbers, please replace the exiting paragraphs with the ones set forth below.

(Page 6, lines 20-29)

Figures 5A and 5B show the strategy used to assess the contribution of the -10 region to promoter strength. Fig. 5A: DNA sequence of wild-type and mutant -10 region in barley (Kim et al., 1999) SEQ ID NOS: 31-36) and tobacco (this study) (~~portions~~ nucleotides 28 to 74 of SEQ ID ~~NOS~~ NO: 3, nucleotides 28 to 74 of SEQ ID NO: 21, nucleotides 28 to 74 of SEQ ID NO: 22 and SEQ ID NO: 37) plastid promoters. Fig. 5B: Autoradiograph of the *in vitro* transcripts and relative transcription activity of the tobacco PrrnP1 derivatives. Values were determined as described in Methods and are averages of three experiments.

(Page 7, lines 24-31)

Figure 8 shows block mutagenesis of nucleotides in the wild-type Prrn promoter (~~Prrn10;~~ Wt Prrn: nucleotides 18-75 of SEQ ID NO: 3; Prrn10: SEQ ID NO: 52) at neutral positions to minimize DNA sequence homology of Prrn promoters. The mutant derivative is Prrn11 (SEQ ID NO: 51). The sequences shown are suitable for combination with translation control sequences for transgene expression, as described in pending patent application WO 00/07421 for increasing protein expression levels.